

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 19, 2003. Claims 1 to 22 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 10 and 19 to 22 are the independent claims. Claims 1, 10 and 19 have been amended. Favorable consideration and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, 7, 10, 11, 16 and 19 to 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,329,289 (Sakamoto); Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sakamoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,326,978 (Robbins); and Claims 5, 9, 14 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sakamoto in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,356,287 (Ruberry).

The present invention concerns an information processing apparatus in which a display direction of a display is designated, and a management table is stored for making an indication state of an indicator in the display direction correspond to control information for controlling an operation of the information processing apparatus for the indication state. The indication state of the indicator is detected, and the operation of the information processing apparatus is controlled on the basis of the control information of the management table, corresponding to the indication state of the indicator. The operation of the information processing apparatus is controlled such that the relation between the display direction and the indication direction of the indicator is constant.

According to one aspect of the invention, the indicator controls the scroll of a display window. In an alternate aspect of the invention, the operation corresponding to the indication direction of the indicator in accordance with the display direction is changeable, based upon the user operation of the indicator.

Referring specifically to the claims, Independent Claim 1 is an information processing apparatus having an indicator for controlling scroll of a display window, including a designation means for designating a display direction of a display, and a storage means for storing a management table for making an indication state of the indicator in the display direction correspond to control information for controlling an operation of the information processing apparatus for the indication state. A detection means detects the indication state of the indicator, and a control means controls the operation of the information processing apparatus on the basis of control information of the management table corresponding to a detection result of the detection means. The control means controls the operation of said information processing apparatus so that a relation between the display direction and an indication direction of the indicator is constant.

Independent Claim 20 is an information processing apparatus having an indicator, including a designation means for designating a display direction of a display and a storage means for storing a management table for making an indication state of the indicator in the display direction correspond to control information for controlling an operation of the information processing apparatus for the indication state. A detection means detects the indication state of the indicator, and a control means controls the operation of the information processing apparatus on the basis of control information of the management table corresponding to a detection result of the detection means. The control means controls the operation of said information processing apparatus so that a relation between the display direction and an indication direction of the indicator is constant. Furthermore, the operation corresponding to the indication direction of the indicator in

accordance with the display direction is changeable based on a user operation of the indicator.

Thus, among its many features, the invention either (i) controls the scroll of a display window or (ii) performs a changeable operation corresponding to an indication direction of the indicator in accordance with the display direction, based upon the user operation of the indicator.

Figure 3 shows one representative embodiment relative to the first aspect of the invention. As shown in Figure 3, when indicator 406 is vertically rotated with vertically elongated screen 4000, vertical scrolling occurs along vertical scroll bar 403. When indicator 406 is horizontally rotated with horizontally elongated screen 4100, horizontal scrolling occurs along the horizontal scroll bar 404. Thus, the indicator serves as a unit for controlling the scroll of a display window allowing a user to selectively use the indicator with either a vertically or horizontally elongated screen, so that the relationship between the display orientation and the indication direction is constant. To its advantage, since the operating direction of the indicator automatically adjusts in accordance with the display orientation, the information processing apparatus is more user-friendly.

Figure 6 shows an alternate representative embodiment relative to the second aspect of the invention. As shown in Figure 6, when indicator 406 is rotated with vertically elongated screen 4000, a changeable operation corresponding to the indication direction of the indicator in accordance with the display direction is performed. In the example shown in Figure 6, the changeable operation is the shifting of focus through a plurality of focusing targets. When indicator 406 is vertically rotated with a vertically elongated screen 4000, vertical focus shifting occurs through a plurality of focusing targets.

When indicator 406 is horizontally rotated with horizontally elongated screen 4100, horizontal focus shifting occurs through the plurality of focusing targets. Thus, the indicator serves as a unit for allowing a user to selectively shift focus through a plurality of focusing targets with either a vertically or horizontally elongated screen, so that the relationship between the display orientation and the indication direction is constant.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the invention. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to provide for (i) controlling the scroll of a display window or (ii) performing a changeable operation corresponding to an indication direction of the indicator in accordance with the display direction, based upon the user operation of the indicator.

Sakamoto is seen to disclose a rotatable display having a rectangular display surface, rotatable to either a vertically elongated position or a laterally elongated position. See Sakamoto, Abstract; col. 3, lines 56 to 64; Figure 1. The Office Action states that sensor 20 corresponds to the indicator of the present invention, whereby the indication direction of the indicator is changeable in accordance with the display direction based on a user operation of this indicator. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this interpretation.

According to column 5, lines 42 to 58 of Sakamoto, sensor 20 is seen to serve as a unit for detecting the direction status of the display unit. Namely, sensor 20 detects whether the display unit is in a vertically elongated direction or a laterally elongated direction. Sensor 20 is seen to be provided with a micro-push switch to detect that the side affected by pressure is a bottom side. Accordingly, the function of sensor 20 is entirely different from the function of the indicator of the present invention, in which the indication direction of the indicator is changeable in accordance with the display direction based on a

user operation of the indicator. In this regard, Sakamoto is not seen to disclose or to suggest the feature of (i) controlling the scroll of a display window or (ii) performing an operation corresponding to an indication direction of the indicator in accordance with the display direction is changeable, based upon the user operation of the indicator.

In the rejection of Claim 2, the Office Action states that Sakamoto teaches scroll operation of a display window of the display. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this interpretation. In particular, Sakamoto, column 4, lines 10 to 13 and Figure 4 are merely seen to disclose a Random Access Memory (RAM) 11b which allocates, among other regions, a scroll start position storing region. Nowhere, however, is Sakamoto seen to teach or suggest an indicator of the present invention, in which the indication direction of the indicator is changeable in accordance with the display direction based on a user operation of the indicator. Furthermore, Sakamoto cannot be seen to disclose the feature of controlling the scroll of a display window, based upon the user operation of the indicator.

Neither Robbins nor Ruberry, either alone or in combination with Sakamoto, are seen to remedy the deficiencies of Sakamoto. In particular, neither Robbins nor Ruberry are seen to disclose the feature of (i) controlling the scroll of a display window or (ii) performing an operation corresponding to an indication direction of the indicator in accordance with the display direction is changeable, based upon the user operation of the indicator.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 1, 10 and 19 to 22 are believed to be allowable over the applied references. The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claim and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because

each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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